

From: Ilan Rabinovitch
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:33am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

Please do not accept the Microsoft settlement it is a bad idea and will hurt both the economy and consumers.

The biggest issue I take with the settlement is that it fails to prohibit many of the anticompetitive practices that brought Microsoft into its position as a monopoly. For example the settlement does not resolve issues regarding anticompetitive licensing. Many of Microsoft's end user license agreements make it illegal to use their software work with open source software.

Another issue is that it does not sufficiently limit Microsoft's ability to bully OEMs and ISVs.

Among other things one solution I propose is for Microsoft to open source their browser (Internet Explorer) as well as discontinued versions of their software (DOS, Windows 3.xx, Windows 95, NT 3.51, Windows NT 4, and 98 when it reaches obseletion).

Microsoft should be required to contribute LARGE ammounts of funds to create a educational program that teaches children around the country how to use the products of their competitors. This should start in lower grades such as kindergarden and continue through the end of high school. It should include Apple's Mac OS and OS X operating system as well as Linux (or any form of Unix such as one of the BSDs). In order to make this training program work Microsoft should pay for the retraining of IT professionals in educational institutions so that they know how to work with Unix (linux,bsd, solaris, etc) and other non-windows environments.

Microsoft should be restricted from entering the home entertainment market (TiVo type devices, set top boxes, and their Xbox gaming console). And if they do enter these markets a percentage of their income should be contributed back into research funding for competitors as well as for training/educational programs previously mentioned.

I have only mentioned a few of the issues I have with the current settlement. I urge you to reject the settlement and find a better solution.

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